

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE RELEASES  
“SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINE STATISTICS 1990 – 2009”

In 2002, the Commission on Judicial Performance released a summary of discipline statistics for the period 1990 to 1999, which was unprecedented nationally. Today, the Commission has issued a new report covering twenty years of judicial discipline that is likewise without precedent. Both reports were undertaken by the Commission in order to afford the judiciary and the public greater information about the Commission’s work, much of which is confidential under the California Constitution and the rules governing the Commission.

The new report entitled “Summary of Discipline Statistics 1990 – 2009” was prepared by students at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research Public Policy Program. The report provides statistical information on the incidence of discipline for California trial court judges as related to factors such as the judge’s age, the judge’s gender, the number of years of judicial service, the size of the judge’s court, the judge’s disciplinary history, whether the judge was initially appointed or elected to office, and the type of misconduct for which the judge was disciplined. The report covers all cases in which public or private discipline was imposed on judges during the period from 1990 through 2009. The data reveal the following trends and relationships, as more fully detailed in the report:

- The number of complaints per judge has decreased slightly since the 1990’s, while the number of sanctions imposed per judge has decreased substantially. This decrease was only in the issuance of advisory letters; the frequency of all other sanctions remained relatively constant.
- Female judges were less frequently sanctioned than male judges.
- Initially elected judges were more frequently sanctioned than initially appointed judges.
- Judges on small courts were more frequently sanctioned than judges on larger courts.
- Judges who had previously been sanctioned by the Commission made up a large share of disciplined judges.

The report is posted on the Commission’s website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.

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The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is Mr. Lawrence J. Simi of San Francisco.